

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST LEADER DEMANDS PCI-MAJORITY CONSULTATIONS ON  
MAJOR POLICY ISSUES

DIA FOR DI5 AND AA2

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN A SPEECH TO THE JUNE 3-5 PCI CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING, PARTY SECRETARY BERLINGUER REAFFIRMED THE "HISTORIC COMPROMISE" AS THE LONG TERM PCI GOAL, BUT EXCLUDED THE PRESENT POSSIBILITY OF ANY HIGH LEVEL PCI-DC ACCORD OR FRONT OF LAY PARTIES TO BRING THE PCI INTO THE GOVERNMENT. BERLINGUER CALLED FOR AGREATER PCI INPUT INTO THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS VIA EXPANDED AND POSSIBLY "FORMAL" CONSULTATIONS IN PARLIAMENT BETWEEN GOVERNMENT PARTIES AND THE COMMUNISTS IN GENERAL POLICY MATTERS AS WELL AS AN END TO ALL "DISCRIMINATION" AGAINST THE PCI. BERLINGUER'S DEMAND FOR BROADER CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT PARTIES AND THE PCI IS LIKELY TO FIND SUPPORT IN THE PSI AND DC LEFT AND CARRIES WITH IT THE DANGER THAT COMMUNIST SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT COULD BECOME DETERMINING ON ISSUES INVOLVING DISAGREEMENT WITHIN THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF SPEECH TO THE JUNE 3-5 CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING,  
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COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY BERLINGUER REITERATED PCI SUPPORT FOR

THE "HISTORIC COMPROMISE" CONCEPT. HOWEVER, BERLINGUER DEFINED THE "HISTORIC COMPROMISE" IN GENERAL TERMS OF A GOVERNMENT BASED ON A "FREE ALLIANCE OF DIVERSE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL FORCES" CAPABLE OF BRINGING ABOUT A "GENERAL DEMOCRATIC SHIFT" IN ALL FIELDS. THE PCI SECRETARY SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED FOR THE PRESENT ANY POSSIBILITY OF A HIGH LEVEL PCI-DC ACCORD OR AN ALLIANCE OF LAY PARTIES AIMED AT BRINGING THE COMMUNISTS INTO THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO DISMISSED IN PASSING THE IDEA OF A "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION" (I.E., INCLUDING ALL PARTIES BUT THE FAR-RIGHT MSI) WHICH THE PRESS AND POLITICAL CIRCLES HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY DISCUSSING.

3. BERLINGUER ADMITTED THAT ALL THE PREREQUISITES FOR A "GENERAL DEMOCRATIC SHIFT" ARE NOT YET PRESENT. HOWEVER, HE SAID, A CHANGE IN THE POLICIES AND MODUS OPERANDI OF THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT BE PUT OFF. THIS CHANGE, BERLINGUER SAID, SHOULD COME IN THE FORM OF A WIDER CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT, NOT EXCLUDING "FORMAL CONSULTATIONS". THIS CONFRONTATION/CONSULTATION SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED AS IN THE PAST TO INDIVIDUAL ISSUES BUT SHOULD INCLUDE MATTERS OF GENERAL POLICY AND SHOULD MARK THE END OF ANY "PRECONCEIVED EXCLUSIONS" OR DISCRIMINATION (I.E., VS. THE PCI) WITHIN THE "CONSTITUTIONAL ARC" OF PARTIES (I.E., EXCLUDING THE MSI). PROMISING FULL SUPPORT TO THE CURRENT UNION EFFORTS TO WIN CONCESSIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT, BERLINGUER STATED THAT THE PCI WILL CONDUCT A VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN TO GAIN ITS CURRENT OBJECTIVE OF A GREATER INPUT INTO THE GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

4. COMMENT: BERLINGUER'S SPEECH REPRESENTS A CAUTIOUS AND CLEVER PCI EFFORT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESSURES ON THE GOVERNMENT ARISING FROM THE REFERENDUM RESULT, TERRORISM ATTRIBUTED TO NEO-FASCIST GROUPS AND CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. BERLINGUER IS CONTINUING HIS IMAGE-BUILDING EFFORTS TO "LEGITIMIZE" FURTHER THE PCI'S DEMOCRATIC PRETENSIONS AND INCREASE ITS POLICY-MAKING ROLE. IN THESE EFFORTS IT WILL NO DOUBT RECEIVE THE SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY WITHIN THE PSI AND MANY WITHIN THE DC LEFT. THESE WOULD TEND TO FEAR ECLIPSE BY A PCI IN THE GOVERNMENT BUT SEE ADVANTAGE IN GIVING THE COMMUNISTS INCREASED LEVERAGE TO LEND OUTSIDE SUPPORT TO PROPOSALS FAVORING MORE RAPID SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHANGE WHICH ARE NOW SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED BY CONSERVATIVE DC FORCES AND BY A MAJORITY WITHIN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPUBLICAN PARTIES. THE DANGER OF THIS COURSE STEMS NOT ONLY FROM THE FACT THAT THE PCI WOULD NO DOUBT EXACT A QUID PRO QUO FOR ITS SUPPORT BUT ALSO BECAUSE DISAGREEMENT ON A PARTICULAR ISSUE WITHIN THE CENTER-LEFT COALITION WOULD MORE EASILY TEMPT THE COALITION'S LEFT-WING TO ACCEPT THE DECIDING PCI WEIGHT IN CLOSE VOTES IN PARLIAMENT. BEAUDRY

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